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ABSTRACT

Drawing upon a number of previous institutional research reports, Miami-Dade Community College conducted a study to determine the characteristics of its traditional, i.e., full-time, first-time-in-college, students. The study sought to develop a composite profile of these students at three stages of academic development: entry level, matriculation, and point of exit. Major characteristics of this profile indicate that, at entry, 53% of the full-time, first-time students were female and that 40% were White, 34% were Hispanic, and 24% were Black. Most (81%) were from Dade County, and 85% enrolled with the intention of earning a two-year degree. At the end of the first fall term (matriculation stage), the students had earned a grade point average (GPA) of 2.39. This average increased to 2.62 for the 60 students who remained through the end of the succeeding fall semester, and decreased to 2.43 for the 29 students who continued on through the end of the third fall term. At the end of four years, 34% of the first-time, full-time students had graduated, with 22% going on to the Florida State University system. The study report provides a series of charts detailing sex distribution and degree choice, ethnic and residency distribution, and re-enrollment and graduation rates. (JP)

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME-IN-COLLEGE STUDENT AT MIAMI-DADE

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME-IN-COLLEGE STUDENT AT MIAMI-DADE

There are a number of changes in enrollment patterns which are occurring at Miami-Dade, as well as other two-year colleges in the nation. We are moving toward more part-time enrollment, a higher proportion of females to males, and a larger enrollment of minority students. These trends have been addressed in other reports from this office. We have not, however, focused on the more traditional full-time, first-time-in-college student as a separate group. This group of students continues to constitute a large segment of our enrollment and has different characteristics from those of the other segments of our student population. For these reasons, it seemed useful to draw a composite picture of this population. The composite is mythical in the sense that there is no one source which can be used to accurately depict in strict numerical terms what amounts to a fabrication of a segment of our student population. There are a number of previous reports which have been drawn upon to provide this information, all of which are available from this office. For purposes of explication, the group will be depicted as 100 full-time, first-time-in-college students at three stages of academic progress; entry level, matriculation, and point of exit. In order to facilitate the narrative, the words "approximate" or "close to" should be understood as preceding each of the numbers, but rather than include these modifiers each time a number is used, the reader should understand that all of the numbers to be used are approximate. Full-time is defined as enrollment for

12 or more credit hours in a major term. There are 5,400 full-time, first-time-in-college students enrolled at Miami-Dade for the 1978-79 Fall Term. Most of the figures in this report related to grade point average and graduation rates are based on students who entered Miami-Dade three to five years ago, while characteristics at entrance are based on 1978-79 Fall Term.

I. Entry

Using a group of 100 for purposes of the focus of this report, 40 are white, 34 Hispanic, 24 black, and 2 other. Males comprise 47, and females 53 of this 100. The first-time, full-time-in-college student enrolls for 73% of the student semester credit hours of the total population of first-time-in-college enrollees, even though they represent but 66% of the first-time-in-college enrollment.

With regard to residency, 81 are from Dade County, 8 from foreign countries, 7 from out-of-state, and 4 from within Florida, but outside of Dade County. There are 8 students who are non-degree at the time they enroll, while 68 opt for the AA programs and 24 for the AS programs; 85 of the students indicate that they intend to earn a two-year degree at Miami-Dade. The average (modal) age of this group of students is 19. Of the 100 students, 53 will have changed their program indication from the point of application to initial registration.

II. Matriculation

At the end of the first Fall term, the 100 full-time, first-time-in-college students have earned a grade point average of 2.39; at the end of the succeeding Fall Term, the grade point

average has increased to 2.62 for the 60 who remained. The following Fall Term, the grade point average has dropped to 2.43 for the 29 who continue.

From the 100 who enter in a Fall Term, 60 can be expected to return the following Fall Term, but only 25 of those have earned a 2.0 or better grade point average and 30 credit hours. If we look at these same students the following year, 29 of the 100 returned. Three years later, 12 return, while 28 have graduated.

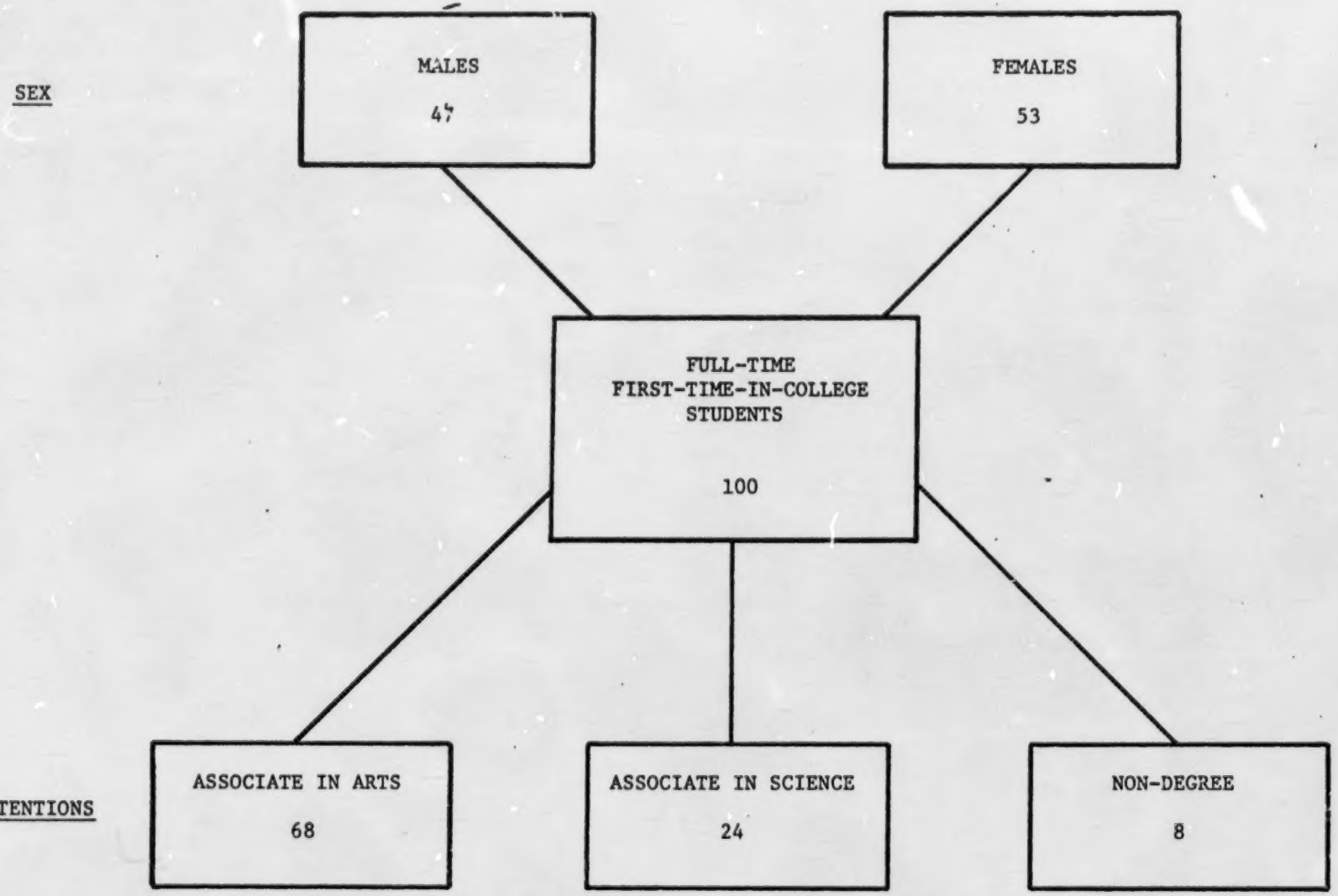
III. Graduation

At the end of four years, 34 have graduated, with 22 going on to the State University System (SUS) in Florida, and 11 graduating from the State University System within six years after initial entry at Miami-Dade. There are between 8 - 10% additional students each year who meet the criteria for graduation but who do not apply for a degree.

Over the past four years there has been a 10% drop in full-time, first-time-in-college students from 6,000 to 5,400 and it can be expected that there will continue to be a slight decline in this group of students over the next few years. As a group, however, they still constitute a large portion of the student semester credit hour enrollment at Miami-Dade and as the above figures show, have different characteristics from those of the general population at the College. If you have questions regarding this information, please call me at 596-1238.

JL:pa

SEX DISTRIBUTION AND DEGREE CHOICE



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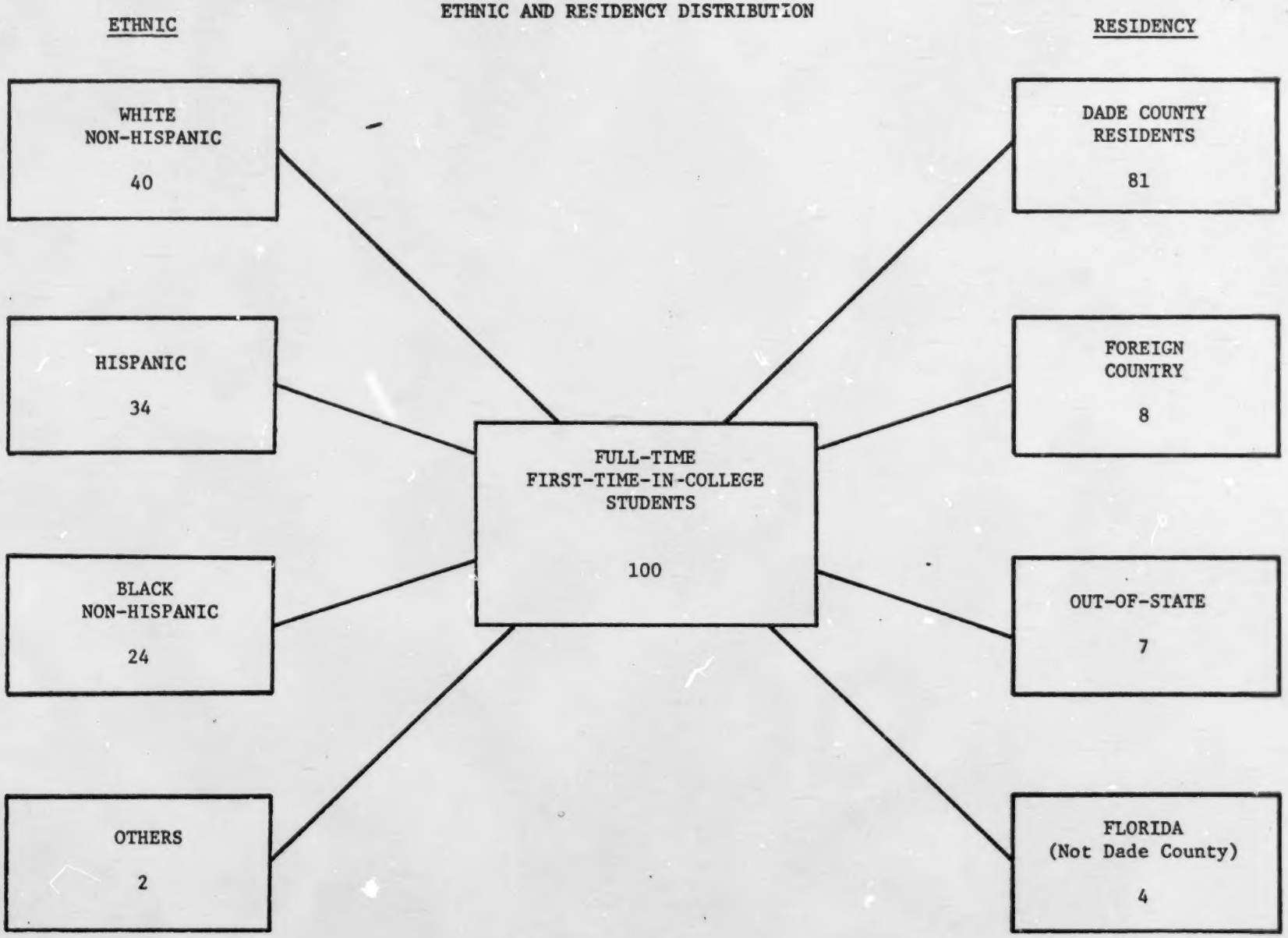
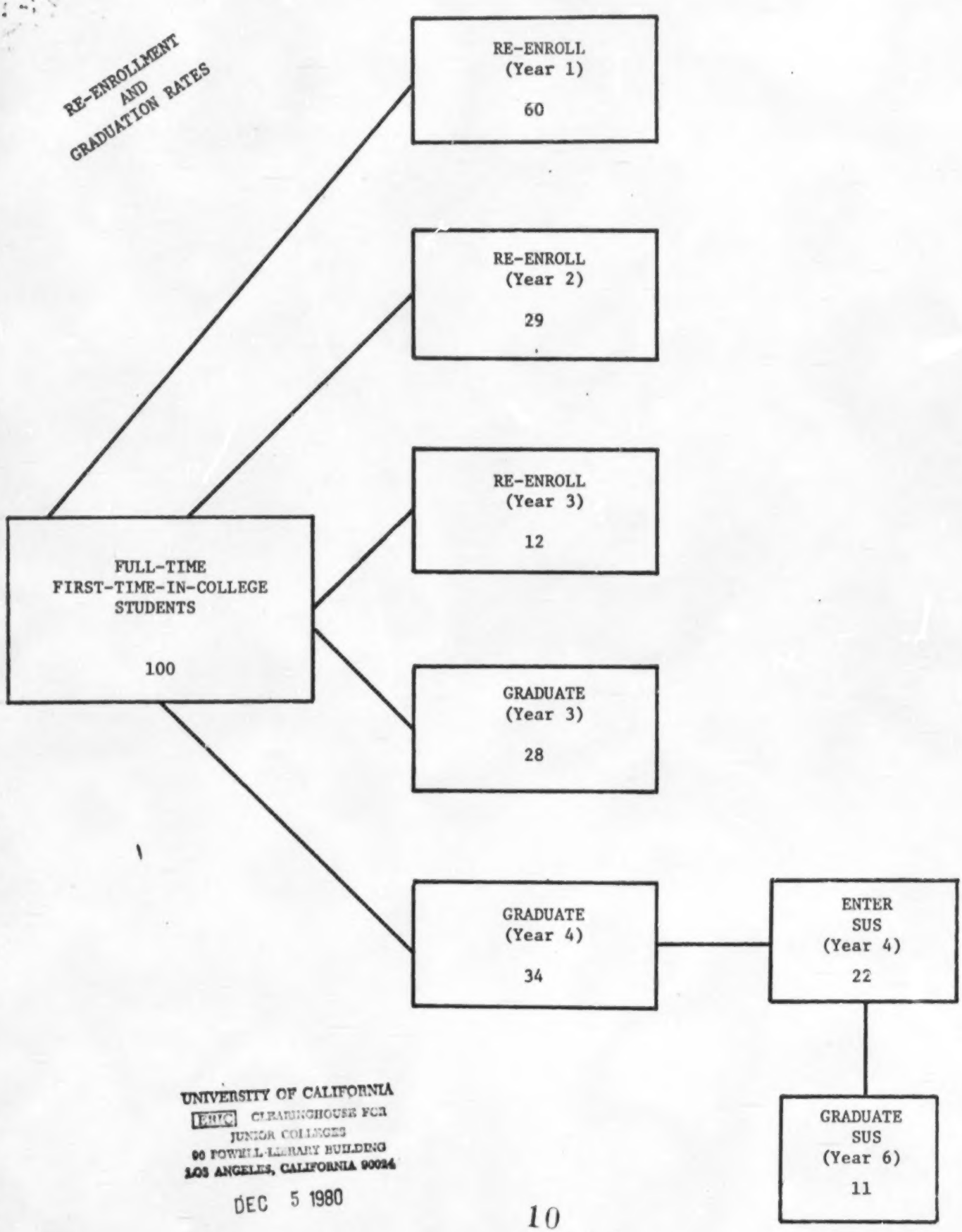


RE-ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES



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